

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A piston ring for use with a piston made of an aluminum alloy in an internal combustion engine, ~~for internal combustion engines~~ comprising a coating film comprising a heat-resistant material and a solid lubricant dispersed therein on at least one side surface, said heat-resistant material comprising at least one of a polyamideimide-silicon dioxide hybrid material and a polyimide-silicon dioxide hybrid material.

2. (original) The piston ring according to claim 1, wherein said solid lubricant comprises an inorganic compound, an inorganic simple substance or a fluororesin, and has an average particle size of 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

3. (original) The piston ring according to claim 2, wherein said solid lubricant comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of molybdenum disulfide, tungsten disulfide, boron nitride, graphite, polytetrafluoroethylene

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resins and tetrafluoroethylene-perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether copolymer resins.

4. (currently amended) The piston ring according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the content of said solid lubricant in the entire coating is 5 to 80% by mass.

5. (currently amended) The piston ring according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said piston ring comprises a nitrided layer formed on a surface of a substrate thereof, said nitrided layer having a thickness of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 120  $\mu\text{m}$ .